Heraclitus Ridens:

AT

A Dialogue between Jeſt and Earneſt, concerning the Times.

Tueſday, Auguſt the 23d. 1681.

Earn. I Was juſt going to write to you; I did not think you would have been ſo quick.

Jeſt. Oh Sir, don't you know that a quick diſpatch is the Grace of the buſineſs.

Earn. Sure you borrowed *Pegaſus*, or one of old *Phœbus* his Poſt-Horſes.

Jeſt. Why, to tell you the plain truth on't, neither ſo nor ſo, I am not ſo much in the graces of the ſinging Ladies; and for all the talking of the Poetical Tribe, I find them obliged more to the flying Coaches, than to *Pegaſus*, or elſe they muſt ride upon Bayard with ten Toes: but come, what news ſince I left you?

Earn. Why truly, the Things moil on much at the ſame rate, only our truſty Friend Mr. *Wilmore* has taken the Tower of *London* ſince you went.

Jeſt. That is to ſay, the Tower has taken him, and what does he ſay to it?

Earn. What ſhould he ſay, but *Ignoramus?*

Jeſt. But the Charm of that word is now loſt they ſay, it will do no more Feats.

Earn. The Rogue would neither lead nor drive ſcarce, the Meſſengers were hard put to it to get him along, he went e'en like a Bear to the Stake.

Jeſt. Can you blame him; I warrant you he thinks there is no haſt to hang ſuch *true Proteſtants*; but what ſay the *Weſtphalia* Folks to it?

Earn. Oh! they ſay he's as honeſt a man as---

Jeſt. As any of their Tribe. Well, that may be, but I'le tell you, in my Travels I met with a Gentleman upon the Road, who told me two or three ſcurvy ſtories about his honeſty.

Earn. Pray let's hear 'em, for the Neighbourhood of the *Whigs* clamour about his Honeſty.

Jeſt. Well, their Talent lies in making a noiſe, you may gueſs his Honeſty by his Loyalty; but however I'le tell you what was told me: one *Ignoramus W.*—— ſold goods to a certain perſon to the value of 100 *l.* to be paid in three months, but before that time, comes to the Debtor and complains of the want of Money: the Debtor gives him a Bill of 107 *l.* to a third perſon, *Ignoramus* receives the Bill in three days, the Creditor requires a diſcharge and the odd 7 *l.* to be returned; No quoth *Ignoramus*, I thank you for that, it coſt me above 8 *l.* in attendance and Charges to get the Money, and ſo Whip ſays *Jether*, it was againſt his Conſcience to part with a farthing.

Earn. 28 *per Cent!* a ſmall buſineſs for an *Ignoramus Conſcience*, but this was nothing to his Countrey Chapman.

Jeſt. What! *true Proteſtant Domeſtick Conſcience?* cheat both City and Countrey; how was it?

Earn. Having ſold goods to a Countrey Chapman to the value of 60 *l.* he gets the poor Ruſtick to confeſs a Judgment of 120 *l.* for Security; and before the day he had given his Chapman, ſeizes the mans goods and ſwoop'd them away; they were praiſed at 120 *l.* but worth 140 *l.* the Countrey-man beg'd hard to have but ten pounds, but *Ignoramus* pretended Charges, and I know not what, and not a croſs would he part with; the Countrey-man ſues him in *Chancery*, it is put to a Reference, and the Referees, who had more *Conſcience* than a hundred *Ignoramus*'s, awarded the poor Countrey-man thirty pounds.

Jeſt. And theſe muſt be your men of *Conſcience* and *Honeſty*, the only men to be pick'd out of the City for Jurors.

Earn. Well! after all you can ſay, *Wilmore* has done the Nation as conſiderable a ſervice in my Opinion as any man this ſeven years.

Jeſt. I confeſs I know not how he could do a greater, unleſs he would be hang'd for the publick good and the advancement of his Trade in Hemp; and they ſay he is in a fair way to do that too.

Earn. He and his Comrogues were a company of Proper Squires indeed to take care of the preſervation of his Majeſties Perſon.

Jeſt. Nay certainly, it is a very pretty Queſtion to ask a mans Fellow, whether he be a Thief?

Earn. And to put a Conſpirator upon the tryal of his Brother Traytor; and yet when he had pronounced him innocent, to ſee how the Rabble of *Weſtphalians* ran away with the ſcent of a *Sham-Plot*; then *Dick*, and *Frank*, and *Harry*, and Mr. Mayor, Sham, Sham, Sham, nothing but tricks put upon the poor *Proteſtant Joyner*, and the true *Proteſtant Baptiſts*.

Jeſt. Well, it was a neat contrivance, if they had not reckon'd without their Hoſt; but you know, I am ſure I do by experience upon the Road, there's nothing got by Queſtioning a Bill, unleſs it be ſome more Items which were forgotten, it muſt all be paid at laſt, as Mr. *Colledg* can tell them to his Coſt.

Earn. Well, in the mean time his Majeſty and the Nation were obliged to ſome body for the extraordinary care and pains in providing ſuch a Jury and ſuch a Foreman.

Jeſt. That's right;

For if the man ſuch praiſe muſt have,
What then muſt he that keeps the Knave?

Earn.

Earn. Pray Sir, be merry and wise though.

Jest. Why, I named no body, I said not a syllable of *S. B.* Esq;.

Earn. No, not a word of the Puddings, for if you do, you'l have a Vindication about your Ears presently; here are a world of Vindications abroad, the *Pismires* have got wings, they fly in shoals and sting confoundedly.

Jest. I hope according to the *Spanish* Proverb, which says, *God gives the* Ant *wings, that she may the sooner be destroyed.*

Earn. Well, if Dr. *Hawkins*, or *Hawksworth* be a man of mettal, sure he will have one fling at the Pear-tree of the Vindication of the Parties concerned in *Fitzharris*'s Confession; for I find upon the matter it is likely to be at his Door.

Jest. I fancy *Sh. B.* might have been better employed in Vindicating himself from the other side o'th Water *Bills vera*, and in prosecuting his weighty Action of thousands against *B. H.* for slandering him with what they say he is ready to prove a matter of Truth.

Earn. Hold you Sir; is it not better to slur it off neatly, and persuade the World his Innocence is so great, that he does not value if a thousand Witnesses should depose that a man should say, *rather than he should want an Executioner, this hand should do it*; it is much more adviseable to contemn and slight them, than to put it to the hazard of a Trial.

Jest. You say well; for there were two Vizzarded Blades, who are excepted out of the Act of Oblivion, and general Pardon; and it is not so easie a thing to prove that a man was not one of them.

Earn. And then there is a kind of an unlucky President; a Fellow brings an Action of Slander against one, for saying he was a High-way man, the Defendant acknowledges he said it, and pleads he will justifie; he produces Witnesses of the time, place and circumstances of the Robbery; upon which the Plaintiff was immediately indicted, prosecuted and convicted; don't you think now he had better have suffered a Nonsuit?

Jest. The truth is, this was harm watch, harm catch, he wound up his bottoms fairly; this was a way of Man-catching which our Friend *Hick* ne'r thought on, for a man to run his own head into the Snickle.

Earn. Well, I say no more but Mum.—— *Felix quem faciunt* —— you know well enough what I mean a; but all this while you have not given me an account of your Journey, and our Friend *Colledges* Trial at *Oxon.*

Jest. Why, you may thank your self for that, you fill'd my Head so full with Vindications, that I had forgot the principal part of my business.

Earn. Well, but how went Cases?

Jest. Just as they use to do when honest men come to try Traytors; for notwithstanding the *Elephants* prophetick Letter and Ballad, *Stephen* was found Guilty.

Earn. Put pray let's hear some of the particulars.

Jest. Why then Sir, you must know, that the *Joyner* trifled most part of the precious time away, upon *Wednesday* into Shavings, alledging he could not plead till his Papers were restored him.

Earn. What Papers, did he mean the Towzers, and the Gallows, and the Broom, for which he was so famous.

Jest. No, No, they were three Papers which were given him by his Solicitor *Starkey*, and *Aaron Smith*, who got liberty to see him; one was a list of his Witnesses, and that was delivered him; the second was a Speech which he had to speak at his Trial, which the Court told him was a Libel, and so was denied him; the third was a Paper of Directions. what, and how to plead, which was also denied him, being the same thing with allowing him Council.

Earn. Well, and how then?

Jest. Why, then to the shame and confusion of *Care, Dick*, &c. a design of this *true Protestant Joyner* and others to seize the King and other matters of High Treason, were proved upon him as plain as ever a pair of Gallows that he made in his life.

Earn. But he had whole Regiment of Witnesses; what, did not they prove him Innocent?

Jest. Truly they might have spared their Journey and the money of the Party for any service they did him that I heard. There was one *Lund* a Drawer, sometime of the Devil.

Earn. For him you mean.

Jest. They call him *Scatter 'em Lord, Scatter 'em*; he was famous for this Zealous Exclamation, a very wonderful thing in a Drawer.

Earn. What? He was for Muscadine and Eggs, sweet Revenge upon the Tory Party.

Jest. But his Head-witness was one, I think the Schollards call'd him *Dr. TO.*

Earn. Pray have a care, they say, that same *To* is one of the King's Evidence, and you must not meddle with them, or tread upon their Toes.

Jest. Well! I know what I say, there are more *TO*'s than one I hope, and this *Dr. To* was *Colledges* Evidence, and none of the Kings.

Earn. Well, *tempora mutantur.*

The Times it seems are chang'd, and so
Is also Reverend Dr. To.

Jest. In fine, about two of the Clock on *Thursday* morning, for they were at it all night, I'm sure I lost a sweet nap, the Jury after about half an hours recess, brought in their Verdict of Guilty. There were bloody things sworn, which I believe will touch some bodies Copyhold, besides the *Joyner*; but I cannot stay to tell you now.

Earn. Why, you'r in such haste now.

Jest. Oh, I forgot to tell you that *Starkey* and *Aron*, were put into the stocks of Recognizance for giving him the Speech, and giving *true Protestant* Language to the Court,

Earn. I am sure they could not bind them to the good behaviour.

Jest. But they were bound to appear, and that's as bad, though not as they deserve; but they will have all their arrears in due time.

Earn. Well! I hope without offence to Squire *Care*, one may now say there is a *Presbyterian Plot.*

Jest. Ay, pray bid *Care* deny it if he dare for his Ears.

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